

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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R 041703 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9813

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

S E C R E T PARIS 12274

EXDIS

HELSINKI FOR VEST

VIENNA FOR DEAN

E. O. 1 1652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR, FR, US, SZ, FI

SUBJECT: FRENCH SEEK US INITIATIVE ON GENEVA AS CSCE FINAL
CONFERENCE SITE

1. SUMMARY. FRENCH CSCE REP ANDREANI HAS STRONGLY EMPHASIZED
TO EMBOFF THE DESIRABILITY OF US TAKING LEAD IN SHIFTING CSCE
FROM HELSINKI TO GENEVA FOR THIRD PHASE CONFERENCE THIS FALL
-- ESPECIALLY IF IT TAKES PLACE AT SUMMIT LEVEL. DISCOUNTING
LIKELIHOOD OF SIGNIFICANT INITIATIVE ON VENUE BY ANY EUROPEAN
STATE, ANDREANI BELIEVES US INITIATIVE ON THIS QUESTION WOULD BE
WELCOMED BY VIRTUALLY ALL WEST EUROPEANS, INCLUDING SWISS.

END SUMMARY.

2. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE RE DEPARTMENT' S RE-
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ACTION TO THIS FRENCH SUGGESTION FOR US INITIATIVE.

3. IN TOUR D' HORIZON OF CSCE DEVELOPMENTS MAY 2, FRENCH CSCE REP ANDREANI EMPHASIZED TO EMBOFF STRONG DESIRE OF EC NINE TO SHIFT CSCE VENUE FROM HELSINKI TO GENEVA FOR FINAL PHASE. HE BELIEVED NOBODY IN WESTERN EUROPE REALLY WISHED TO HOLD FINAL CONFERENCE IN HELSINKI, BUT FOR VARIOUS REASONS NO ONE APPEARS WILLING TO TAKE OVERT INITIATIVE ON THE MATTER.

4. ASKED WHY SWISS DO NOT TAKE INITIATIVE, ANDREANI REPLIED SWISS GENUINELY WANT TO HOST THE CONFERENCE BUT HESITATE TO SAY SO " FOR INTERNAL REASONS" (NOT FURTHER DEFINED). ASKED WHY FRENCH OR OTHER EC REPS DO NOT TAKE LEAD IN PUSHING FOR GENEVA SITE, ANDREANI SIDESTEPED QUESTION BUT LEFT CLEAR IMPRESSION FRENCH, FOR THEIR PART, DO NOT WANT TO STRAIN RELATIONS WITH FINNS OR SOVIETS OVER THIS ISSUE.

5. ANDREANI WISHED UNITED STATES WOULD TAKE THE LEAD -- HOPEFULLY " DURING CRUCIAL MONTH OF MAY" -- IN BEHALF OF GENEVA. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE US INITIATIVE WOULD BE IMMEDIATELY SUPPORTED BY VIRTUALLY ALL WEST EUROPEANS, INCLUDING SWISS. HE ANTICIPATED RESISTANCE, HOWEVER, FROM SOVIETS.

6. AMONG REASONS ANDREANI ADVANCED FOR PREFERRING GENEVA OVER SOVIET- PREFERRED HELSINKI WERE: A) IF THIRD PHASE MEETING IS AT SUMMIT, WEST WOULD BE MUCH BETTER OFF IN GENEVA THAN HELSINKI, ON SOVIET'S DOORSTEP; B) GENEVA MORE TRULY NEUTRAL, BETTER LOCATED, AND BETTER EQUIPPED THAN HELSINKI TO HANDLE MAJOR EAST- WEST CONFERENCE; C) LOCATION OF CSCE PERMANENT MECHANISM, IF AGREED TO, MAY WELL BE DETERMINED BY SITE OF FINAL CONFERENCE, AND IT MANIFESTLY MORE ADVANTAGEOUS TO WEST TO HAVE SUCH MECHANISM IN SWITZERLAND -- SEPARATE FROM, BUT IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO, UN EUROPEAN HEADQUARTER AND ECD; D) HAVING ACCEPTED WARSAW PACT CHOICES OF HELSINKI AND VIENNA FOR LAUNCHING CSCE AND MBFR PREPARATORY TALKS, WEST COULD REASONABLY ASK EASTERN QUID PRO QUO OF GENEVA FOR CSCE FINALE. ANDREANI ALSO LEFT IMPRESSION THAT HE THOUGHT AT COMING FRG AND US SUMMIT TALKS WITH BREZHNEV, CHANCELLOR BRANDT AND PRESIDENT NIXON MIGHT CONSIDER TAKING FORTHCOMING
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STANCE ON HOLDING CSCE THIRD PHASE AT SUMMIT IN EXCHANGE INTER ALIA FOR GREEN LIGHT FROM BRAZHNEV ON SHIFT FROM HELSINKI TO GENEVA.

7. EMBOFF WAS NONCOMMITTAL, BUT EXPRESSED INTEREST IN ANDREANI'S THINKING, NOTED THAT USG SUPPORTED HELSINKI FOR CSCE FIRST PHASE MINISTERIAL, BUT BELIEVED WASHINGTON HAD

OPEN MIND ON SITES OF SUBSEQUENT CSCE ACTIVITY, AND INDICATED HE WOULD REPORT ANDREANI' S VIEWS TO DEPARTMENT.
IRWIN

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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